

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A panel for an airbag of an automobile formed by integrally two-color molding a cover body made of a first synthetic resin with a main body made of a second synthetic resin which is harder than said first synthetic resin material, the panel comprising:

a joint portion joined with the cover body provided around an opening portion formed in the main body,

wherein the joint portion constitutes an overlapping portion in which an outer peripheral edge of the cover body is ~~overlapped as being arranged overlaps and is provided~~ on the inner side of an opening edge of the main body and the overlapping portion is welded together in two-color molding the main body with the cover body.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously Presented) The panel for an airbag according to claim 1, wherein a concavo-convex portion having a serrate shape or a downwardly convex shape is formed on a lower face of the main body in the overlapping portion.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Previously Presented) The panel for an airbag according to claim 1, wherein a surface of a periphery of the cover body has a step portion adjacent to the rear surface of the cover body and facing the edge of the opening portion of the main body, thereby, a groove portion having a closed curve shape is formed in a boundary portion of an end portion of the opening portion of the main body in the cover body, and a first wall portion which is thin and which ruptures and a second wall portion which is at least 1.5 times as thick as the first wall

Application Serial No.: 09/462,502  
Reply to Office Action dated August 28, 2003

portion and which does not rupture at an operating time of the airbag are formed along the groove portion in the cover body in a single line shape or a shape of plural continuous lines.

6. (Previously Presented) The panel for an airbag according to claim 5, wherein the second wall portion is formed into a shape so as to have one transverse line on an upper or lower side of the cover body, and the first wall portion is formed in a quadrilateral shape with one side opened along the groove portion in three directions except for the transverse line forming the non-thin wall portion.

7. (Previously Presented) The panel for an airbag according to claim 5, wherein the second wall portion is formed into a shape so as to have one transverse line on an upper or lower side of the cover body and the first wall portion is formed along an entire periphery of the groove portion such that a line forming the second wall portion is included in an inner side.

8. (Previously Presented) The panel for an airbag according to claim 5, wherein the second wall portion can be formed into a shape so as to have one transverse line on each of upper and lower sides of the cover body, and the first wall portion is formed into a shape so as to have one longitudinal line on each of left-hand and right-hand sides of the cover body;

wherein a third wall portion which is thin and which is not formed along the groove portion is formed into a shape so as to have one transverse line in a central portion of the cover body; and

wherein the first and third wall portions are formed into an H-shape.

9. (Previously Presented) The panel according for an airbag to claim 5, wherein the second wall portion is formed into a shape so as to have one transverse

line on each of upper and lower sides of the cover body, and the first wall portion is formed along an entire periphery of the groove portion such that a line forming the second wall portion is included in an inner side;

wherein a third wall portion which is thin and which is not formed along the groove portion is formed into a shape so as to have one transverse line in a central portion of the cover body; and

wherein the first and third wall portions are formed into a shape in which two quadrilaterals are lined up.

10. (Previously Presented) The panel for an airbag according to claim 5, wherein the second wall portion is formed into a shape so as to have one longitudinal line on each of left-hand and right-hand sides of the cover body, and the first wall portion is formed into a shape so as to have one transverse line on each of upper and lower sides of the cover body;

wherein a third wall portion which is thin and which is not formed along the groove portion is formed into a shape so as to have one longitudinal line in a central portion of the cover; and

wherein the first and third wall portions are formed into an H-shape.

11. (Previously Presented) The panel for an airbag according to claim 5, wherein the second wall portion is formed into a shape so as to have one longitudinal line on each of left-hand and right-hand sides of the cover body, and the first wall portion is formed along an entire periphery of the groove portion such that a line forming the second portion is included with an inner side;

wherein a third wall portion is not formed along the groove portion but is formed into

a shape so as to have one longitudinal line in a central portion of the cover body; and

wherein the first and third wall portions are formed into a shape in which two quadrilaterals are lined up.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~The A panel for an airbag according to claim 5 of an automobile formed by integrally two-color molding a cover body made of a first synthetic resin with a main body made of a second synthetic resin which is harder than said first synthetic resin material, the panel comprising:~~

a joint portion joined with the cover body provided around an opening portion formed in the main body,

wherein the joint portion constitutes an overlapping portion in which an outer peripheral edge of the cover body overlaps and is provided on the inner side of an opening edge of the main body and the overlapping portion is welded together in two-color molding the main body with the cover body,

further comprising a rib projecting into the second wall portion and connected to an airbag case of the airbag through a connecting member.

13. (Currently Amended) A panel for an airbag of an automobile formed by integrally molding a cover body made of a first synthetic resin which is soft with a main body made of a second synthetic resin which is harder than the first synthetic resin, the panel comprising:

a joint portion joined with the cover body provided around an opening portion formed in the main body,

wherein the joint portion constitutes an overlapping portion in which an outer peripheral edge of the cover body ~~is overlapped as being arranged overlaps and is provided~~

Application Serial No.: 09/462,502  
Reply to Office Action dated August 28, 2003

on the inner side of an opening edge of the main body, and the opening edge of the opening portion of the main body is connected to the outer peripheral edge of the cover body.

14. (Currently Amended) A panel for an airbag of an automobile comprising:

a cover body made of a first synthetic resin material which is soft; and

a main body made of a second synthetic resin material which is harder than the first synthetic resin material and which is compatible with the first synthetic resin material, the main body being formed by two-color molding after forming the cover body; and,

wherein the cover body includes a deformation restricting portion provided at the outer peripheral edge of the cover body ~~and engaged, the deformation restricting portion being adapted to engage~~ with a mold face,

wherein the main body includes an opening portion which is closed by the cover body; and

wherein the deformation restricting portion restricts deformation of the cover body caused by a molding pressure which acts at a molding time of the main body.

15. (Currently Amended) ~~The A panel for an airbag according to claim 14 of an automobile comprising:~~

a cover body made of a first synthetic resin material which is soft;

a main body made of a second synthetic resin material which is harder than the first synthetic resin material and which is compatible with the first synthetic resin material, the main body being formed by two-color molding after forming the cover body; and,

a deformation restricting portion provided at the outer peripheral edge of the cover body, the deformation restricting portion being adapted to engage with a mold face,

wherein the main body includes an opening portion which is closed by the cover

body,

wherein the deformation restricting portion restricts deformation of the cover body  
caused by a molding pressure which acts at a molding time of the main body, and

wherein the deformation restricting portion is constituted of a convex strip having either an angular cross section or a concave groove.

16. (Currently Amended) A panel for an airbag of an automobile comprising:  
a main body having an opening portion, the main body being made of a first synthetic resin material; and

a cover body made of a second synthetic resin material which is ~~harder~~ softer than the first synthetic resin material and which is compatible with the first synthetic resin material, the cover body being formed by two-color molding after forming the main body; and,

wherein the main body includes a deformation restricting portion provided at the periphery of the opening portion and engaged, the deformation restricting portion being  
adapted to engage with a mold face,

wherein the opening portion of the main body is closed by the cover body; and

wherein the deformation restricting portion restricts deformation of the ~~cover~~ main body caused by a molding pressure which acts at a molding time of the main cover body.

17. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ A panel for an airbag according to claim 16 of an automobile comprising:

a main body having an opening portion, the main body being made of a first synthetic resin material;

a cover body made of a second synthetic resin material which is harder than the first  
synthetic resin material and which is compatible with the first synthetic resin material, the

cover body being formed by two-color molding after forming the main body; and  
a deformation restricting portion provided at the periphery of the opening portion, the  
deformation restricting portion being adapted to engage with a mold face,  
wherein the opening portion of the main body is closed by the cover body,  
wherein the deformation restricting portion restricts deformation of the cover body  
caused by a molding pressure which acts at a molding time of the main body, and  
wherein the deformation restricting portion is a convex strip having either an angular  
cross section or a concave groove

18. (Canceled).

19. (Currently Amended) The A panel for an airbag according to claim 5 of an  
automobile formed by integrally two-color molding a cover body made of a first synthetic  
resin with a main body made of a second synthetic resin which is harder than said first  
synthetic resin material, the panel comprising:

a joint portion joined with the cover body provided around an opening portion formed  
in the main body,

wherein the joint portion constitutes an overlapping portion in which an outer  
peripheral edge of the cover body overlaps and is provided on the inner side of an opening  
edge of the main body and the overlapping portion is welded together in two-color molding  
the main body with the cover body,

further comprising:

a rib projecting into the cover body on the rear face of a portion in which no first wall  
portion is formed; and

a connecting member is made of a metal, extends from a side of the main body, and is

connected to the rib; and

a projection formed on a surface of the connecting member, the projection biting into a surface of the rib when the connecting member is connected to the rib.

20. (Previously Presented) A method for producing a panel for an airbag of an automobile formed by integrally molding a cover body made of a first synthetic resin which is soft with a main body made of a second synthetic resin which is harder than the first synthetic resin, the method comprising:

preparing a thermoplastic material having compatibility with each of the first synthetic resin and second synthetic resin forming each of the main body and the cover body, respectively;

arranging a movable core in a male or a female die as a mold;

interrupting a portion between a first cavity portion for forming a first member and a second cavity portion for forming a second member by allowing the core to project and contact an opposite one of the male or female die;

injecting a material of the first member into the first cavity portion;

forming a communicating portion between the first and second cavity portions by retreating the core; and

injecting a material of the second member into the second cavity portion and the communicating portion so that an overlapping portion of both the first and second members is formed and adhered and both the first and second members are integrally made.